

October 19, 1986

Dear Mom and Dad,

Your letter was in the mailbox this morning and I read it after Vickie and I completed our five mile Sunday morning run. I'm sure Diane was disappointed about losing her second seat, but I can see several reasons why it might happen. The director certainly wants to encourage the other players and they need to know they have a chance to move up if they do well. Secondly, the orchestra must be very competitive and to stay at the top one probably has to dedicate a great deal of time to practice; a lot like the Olympics. I believe Diane is interested in many other activities and doesn't care to devote every moment to practice. But she certainly doesn't have anything to feel bad about!

Mom, it sound as if you are busy every moment and doing things which I would never think of - such as refinishing kitchen cupboards. If you are so active, walking three days a week is plenty. Actually it does take some time getting used to the dark. At first one feels they really shouldn't be out there. After a while it becomes more comfortable especially when you see that other people, even if not very many, are out there also. On a couple of my long Saturday runs into work I was out the door before 5 AM but still saw people at the 7-11 preparing for a fishing trip and also enjoyed the sunrise over the Potomac.

As I told you on the phone, we had dinner at the Wilson's in Reston last night along with the Sanchez's from Dahlgren. It was fun and our schedule of having a dinner about every four months works out fine. Today was beautiful and I couldn't do homework

all day. We drove over to the National Arboretum on New York Avenue and walked around a little bit. We had never been there and were impressed by the large area, the trees and flowers, and how well the place is kept up. It is a perfect picnic destination for us to go to some time.

I am afraid I do not know what "Contra" dancing is. I don't care for the Contras, but I'm sure there is no relation because certainly Dad wouldn't permit Mary to support them!

I have been working on my Lisp program for Artificial Intelligence all evening and now I believe I am ready for bed. I can hear the Opera in the other room but I wouldn't be surprised if Vickie has fallen asleep!

Love,

Jim